

PANICUM CAPILLARE L. VAR. BARBIPULVINATUM (NASH) COMB. NOV.

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Panicum capillare L. var. barbipulvinatum (Nash) R.L. McGregor, comb. nov., based on P. barbipulvinatum Nash, Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 1: 21. 1900 and the autonymic var. barbipulvinatum established by Panicum barbipulvinatum var. hirsutipes Suksdorf, Werdenda 1: 17. 1927.

While studying the variation of Panicum capillare s.l. it became clear that three taxa could be recognized. Since all three are now somewhat sympatric I prefer to use the rank of variety, rather than subspecies, for the taxa. P. c. var. capillare is automatic for one variety and P. c. var. brevifolium Vasey ex Rydberg & Shear must replace the illegitimate P. c. var. occidentale Rydb. (McGregor, 1984) for another variant. The most distinctive variety, however, required the above new combination and follows enactment of the "Demoulin" rule at the Sydney Congress.

I submit the following key to the three varieties which does not consider the possibility that P. gattingeri Nash may be a variety of P. capillare L.

- 1 Mature spikelets 1.8-2.2(2.3) mm long; plants of SE U.S., introduced elsewhere.....1. P. c. var. capillare
- 1 Mature spikelets (2.4)2.5-4.5 mm long; plants of W 1/2 and N U.S., introduced elsewhere.
  - 2 Spikelets (2.4)2.5-2.9(3.1) mm long; mature fruit 1.5X as long as wide; general distribution.....2. P. c. var. brevifolium
  - 2 Spikelets 3.0-4.0(4.5) mm long; mature fruit 2X as long as wide; sandy shores and moist places.....3. P. c. var. barbipulvinatum

LITERATURE CITED

- McGregor, Ronald L. 1984. Panicum capillare L. var. occidentale Rydb. (Poaceae): an illegitimate name. Contrib. Univ. Kansas Herbarium 10: 1-3.